

MINUTES

**Transportation Policy Committee
Of the
Regional Planning Commission
For**

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes

November 12th 2013

Committee Members: Chairman David Peralta, 1st Vice Chairman Mitch Landrieu (designee Cedric Grant), Secretary Patricia Brister, Treasurer John Young, Gordon Burgess, Chris Roberts (designee Deano Bonano), Lee Giorgio, Jack Stumpf, Jacquelyn Clarkson (designee Joe Rochelle), Stacy Head, Jeffrey Schwartz, Ronald Carrere, Keith Hinkley, Byron Marinovich, Mike Ford, Ray Lauga, Casey Hunnicutt, Charles Ponstein, David Munn, Steve Stefancik, Reid Falconer, Richard Kelley, Lionel Wells, Dr. Bonnie Lewis, Sherri LeBas (designee: Mike Stack), Jeff Davis (designee Tom Lobello), Larry Rase (designee: Carlton Dufrechou), V.J. St. Pierre (designee Buddy Boe), Pat Gallway, Natalie Robottom, Donald Villere, Sal Longoria, Ryan Brown, Mike Cooper and Bob Zabbia

Attendance: 35

Consultants: Ernest Burguieres, III, Legal Counsel

Staff: Walter Brooks, Jeffrey Roesel, Nicholas Silvey, Maggie Woodruff, et al



AGENDA

1. Consideration: Approval of the October 8, 2013 minutes
2. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements
3. Consideration: Amendment to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements
4. Consideration: Report on the South Tangipahoa Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program
5. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Stage 0 Feasibility –Proposed Connector (Dufresne Pkwy. To LA52)
RPC Project No. A-1.14
Amount \$50,000
6. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Transportation System Surveillance
RPC Project No. B-2.14
Amount \$45,000
7. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Law Enforcement Workshop & Instructor Development Program New Orleans
Regional Bike/Pedestrian Safety & Community Education Program, Phase IV

- 8. Consideration: RPC Task No. NBP4-Enforce
Amount \$10,000
Consultant Selection:
Stage 0 Feasibility Study
New Orleans Bike Share & Feasibility Study & Business Model
RPC Task No. A-2.14
Amount: \$75,000
- 9. Presentation: Public Outreach Guide
By: Nik Richard, RPC
- 10. Consideration: Public Comment Period
- 11. Consideration: Other Matters



Mr. Peralta led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the roll call, a quorum was established and the Chairman called the Transportation Policy Committee meeting to order. Mr. Silvey introduced and welcomed Dr. Bonnie Lewis as a new citizen Commission member from Tangipahoa Parish. Mr. Brooks introduced two guests: Cathleen Berthelot, Southeast Regional Representative for Senator Mary Landrieu and Perline Thomas, District Manager for the Associated General Contractors.

1. Consideration: Approval of October 8, 2013 Minutes

President Young made a motion to approve the October 8, 2013 minutes, seconded by President Brister and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

2. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 4 of the meeting packet for the amendments to the New Orleans TIP, Highway & Transit Elements, and provided a brief explanation of each item.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the New Orleans TIP amendments for the Highway & Transit Elements. It was so moved by Mr. Munn, seconded by Councilman Lauga and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

3. Consideration: Amendment to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements

Mr. Brooks referred the members to pages 5 of the meeting packet for the amendments to the St. Tammany TIP, Highway & Transit Elements, and provided a brief explanation of each item.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the St. Tammany TIP amendments for the Highway Element. It was so moved by President Brister, seconded by Councilmember Stefancik and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

4. Consideration: Report on the South Tangipahoa Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Jeffrey Roesel announced that there will be public meetings held in Hammond on the evening of November 12th and Pontchatoula on the evening of November 14th to present and receive public comment on the South Tangipahoa Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program.

**5. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Stage 0 Feasibility –Proposed Connector (Dufresne Pkwy. To LA52)
RPC Project No. A-1.14
Amount \$50,000**

Mr. Brooks explained this project consists of conducting a study to evaluate the constructability and operational feasibility of providing a collector roadway linking Dufresne Parkway to LA 52 (Paul Maillard Rd) and generally following the Easy St. corridor alignment in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana.

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 6 which listed respondents to the Request for Qualifications. He reported that, following RPC staff review and ranking, C.H. Fenstermaker was recommended to undertake this project.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant selection and to authorize the Chairman and/or Executive Director to execute any documents in connection with this project. It was so moved by Mr. Boe, seconded by Councilmember Stefancik and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

**6. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Transportation System Surveillance
RPC Project No. B-2.14
Amount \$45,000**

Mr. Brooks explained the purpose of this project is to assist the Regional Planning Commission in the collection of traffic data. These types of data will include but are not limited to average daily traffic and vehicle classification information.

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 7 which listed respondents to the Request for Qualifications. He reported that, following RPC staff review and ranking, ITS Regional, LLC was recommended to undertake this project.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant selection and to authorize the Chairman and/or Executive Director to execute any documents in connection with this project. It was so moved by President Young, seconded by Mr. Ponstein and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

**7. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Law Enforcement Workshop & Instructor Development Program
New Orleans Regional Bike/Pedestrian Safety & Community
Education Program, Phase IV
RPC Task No. NBP4-Enforce
Amount \$10,000**

Mr. Brooks explained this workshop is intended as a two part training process to provide participants with an understanding of pedestrian and bicycle laws, common crash types and behaviors that cause crashes.

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 8 which listed respondents to the Request for Qualifications. He reported that, following RPC staff review and ranking, WE Bike, etc., LLC was recommended to undertake this project.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant selection and to authorize the Chairman and/or Executive Director to execute any documents in connection with this project. It was so moved by Councilman Lauga, seconded by President Young and

approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

- 8. Consideration:** **Consultant Selection:**
Stage 0 Feasibility Study
New Orleans Bike Share & Feasibility Study & Business Model
RPC Task No. A-2.14
Amount: \$75,000

Mr. Brooks explained the purpose of this project is to develop a feasibility study and business plan for a phased implementation of a bike share program in New Orleans.

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 9 which listed respondents to the Request for Qualifications. He reported that, following RPC staff review and ranking, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. was recommended to undertake this project.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant selection and to authorize the Chairman and/or Executive Director to execute any documents in connection with this project. It was so moved by Deputy Mayor Grant, seconded by Mr. Carrere and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

- 9. Presentation:** **Public Outreach Guide**
By: Nikolaus Richard, RPC

Mr. Brooks introduced Mr. Nikolaus Richard, RPC Transportation Planner/Title VI Coordinator. Mr. Richard referred members to the handout entitled "Connecting People + Places". He explained that the RPC created this booklet, in association with the Estopinal Group, as an outreach tool. He offered additional copies and also noted that the document is available on the RPC website. Mr. Brooks added that this tool compliments the RPC quarterly newsletter which is also on the website.

- 10. Consideration:** **Public Comment Period**

The Chairman asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

- 11. Consideration:** **Other Matters**

There being no other matters to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the meeting and proceeded to the Regional Planning Commission Meeting.

MINUTES

Regional Planning Commission
For
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November 12, 2013

Committee Members: Chairman David Peralta, 1st Vice Chairman Mitch Landrieu (designee Cedric Grant), Secretary Patricia Brister, Treasurer John Young, Gordon Burgess, Chris Roberts (designee Deano Bonano), Lee Giorgio, Jack Stumpf, Jacquelyn Clarkson (designee Joe Rochelle), Stacy Head, Jeffrey Schwartz, Ronald Carrere, Keith Hinkley, Byron Marinovich, Mike Ford, Ray Lauga, Casey Hunnicutt, Charles Ponstein, David Munn, Steve Stefancik, Reid Falconer, Richard Kelley, Lionel Wells, Dr. Bonnie Lewis, Sherri LeBas (designee: Mike Stack)

Attendance: 25

Consultants: Ernest Burguieres, Legal Counsel

Staff: Walter Brooks, Jeffrey Roesel, Nicholas Silvey, Maggie Woodruff, et al



AGENDA

1. Consideration: Approval of the October 8, 2013 minutes
2. Committee Reports: (a) Budget and Personnel Committee
(b) Other Committee Reports
3. Consideration: Financial Report
(a) Balance Sheet of Local Activities
(b) Monthly Budget Report
4. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements
5. Consideration: Amendment to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements
6. Consideration: Report on the South Tangipahoa Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program
7. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
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RPC Project No. A-1.14 - Amount \$50,000
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10. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Stage 0 Feasibility Study
New Orleans Bike Share & Feasibility Study & Business Model
RPC Task No. A-2.14 - Amount: \$75,000
11. Presentation: Baton Rouge to New Orleans Rail Project
By: General John Basilica, Jr. P.E.
Gulf Coast District Leader, HNTB Corporation
12. Consideration: Travel Request
13. Consideration: Contract Extensions

- 14. Consideration: Consultant Billings
- 15. Consideration: Public Comment Period
- 16. Consideration: Other Matters



The Chairman called the meeting to order and noted the existence of a quorum.

1. Consideration: Approval of October 8, 2013 Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of October 8, 2013 were approved upon a motion by Mr. Ponstein, seconded by Councilmember Lauga and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

**2. Committee Reports: (a) Budget & Personnel
(b) Other Committee Reports**

Mr. Silvey explained the committee reports would come under regular agenda items.

**3. Consideration: Financial Report
(a) Balance Sheet of Local Activities
(b) Monthly Budget Report**

Mr. Silvey referred the members to page 10 of the meeting packet for the balance sheet for the month ending September 30, 2013. He indicated that the RPC's total Assets and Liabilities, which include the Fund Balance) in the amount of \$2,201,472.68

Mr. Silvey then referred the members to page 11 of the meeting packet for the monthly budget report with no revisions. There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the monthly budget report. It was so moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Stefancik and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

- 4. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements**
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- 10. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
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New Orleans Bike Share & Feasibility Study & Business Model
RPC Task No. A-2.14 - Amount: \$75,000**

Mr. Brooks requested concurrence of items 4-10 which were recommended for approval by the members of the Transportation Policy Committee.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve items 4-10 in globo. It was so moved by President Young seconded by President Brister and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

11. Presentation: Baton Rouge to New Orleans Rail Project
By: General John Basilica, Jr. P.E.
Gulf Coast District Leader, HNTB Corporation

Mr. Brooks introduced General John Basilica, Jr., P.E., to provide a briefing on the Baton Rouge to New Orleans Rail Project. General Basilica gave a PowerPoint presentation which depicted the location of proposed stopping points and provided a history of past efforts. He explained that the current study builds on past efforts, with adjustments for changes in factors such as federal funding availability and political will. The former "high-speed" goal has changed to the 79mph standard to establish service. The Bonne Carre Spillway bridge and East Bridge Junction are two major elements to address in order to achieve standard speeds. Conversations with freight railroads are ongoing, as their cooperation is essential. General Basilica said there has been unprecedented regional cooperation between the Baton Rouge area, New Orleans and communities in-between. He anticipates completing the study by the end of 2013.

There was lengthy discussion with members expressing variant views, including the need for highway funds, concern about a potential shift in where people choose to live based on improved commuting options, a need for alternative modes of transportation, the hope that rail will reduce some vehicular traffic congestion, etc. Mr. Brooks concluded by stating that this study takes a practical approach. He told members that a presentation on the New Orleans Rail Gateway EIS will be given at an upcoming meeting.

12. Consideration: Travel Request

Mr. Silvey referred Members to page 12 of the packet and pointed out that there are three travel requests: one staff member (Meredith Soniat) is requesting to attend the Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, February 13-15, 2014 in Denver, CO, one staff member (Walter Brooks) requesting to attend a meeting on November 18, 2013 in Washington, D.C., and two board members (Councilman Hunnicutt and Councilman Lauga) to ratify their attendance at the 2013 Super Region Canvas Workshop, November 3-5, 2013 in Tampa, Florida.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the travel requests. It was so moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Councilman Stefancik, and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

13. Consideration: Contract Extensions

Mr. Silvey stated that there are no contract extension requests this month.

14. Consideration: Consultant Billings

Mr. Silvey referred the members to a summary list of the consultant bills on page 13 in the meeting packet, noting that staff had reviewed each of them and favorably recommended them for approval.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant billings. It was so moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by President Young, and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

15. Consideration: Public Comment Period

The Chairman asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

16. Consideration: Other Matters

Mr. Silvey referred members to the last page of the meeting packet which contained three bids to provide landscaping services for the Regional Transportation Management Center. The low bid by Louisiana Landscape Specialty, Inc. was recommended for approval.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the award. It was so moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by President Young, and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

Mr. Brooks referred members to Resolution 13-1020. He explained that the Resolution would authorize Supplement No. 2 to the RPC contract with Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. to Replace the Belle Chasse Tunnel and Bridge in Plaquemines Parish. He stated that there is a need to examine an additional alternative. The additional work will add \$160,000 to the contract, consisting of \$128,000 of the RPC's STP.200K attributable funds and \$32,000 local match provided by Plaquemines Parish.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the Resolution. It was so moved by Councilman Marinovich, seconded by Councilman Hinkley, and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

There being no other matters to discuss, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by President Young and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.